

Got Drugs?

DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Talking Points

- On September 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. DEA and its community partners will take part in the first ever nationwide prescription drug take-back, operating collection sites around the nation where Americans can turn in their unused, unneeded, expired prescription medications.
- Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse.
- This service is free and anonymous.
- Tablets, capsules, and all other solid dosage forms will be collected. Intravenous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will not be accepted.
- To find a collection site near you, go to www.dea.gov and click on the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day icon.
- Pharmaceutical drugs, particularly controlled substances, taken without a prescription or a doctor's supervision can be just as dangerous as taking illicit drugs.
- According to the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), the non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to marijuana as the most prevalent category of drug abuse in the United States.
- The 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health notes that more Americans currently abuse prescription drugs than the number of those abusing cocaine, hallucinogens, and heroin combined.
- The 2009 Monitoring the Future Survey data show that one in ten 12th graders used the pharmaceutical narcotic Vicodin for non-medical purposes.
- The 2008 Partnership Attitude Tracking Survey showed that the majority of teenagers using prescription drugs got them from family and friends, including from their home medicine cabinets.